(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to eliminate middlemen and commission agents in coal trading ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) do not appoint any Middle men or Commission Agents. It is the consumers who appoint their authorised representatives. These authorised representatives commonly known as handling agents render various commercial services to the consumers. Appointment of such handling agents is a common commercial practice and most of the consumers are utilising their services. all steps are being taken to eliminate middlemen and give coal only to actual users.

Facilities to the mebers of National Council of Central Joint Consultative Machinery

*387. SHRI K.K. VEERAPPAN:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the facilities/grants made available to Members of the National Council of Central JCM and to the Staff side of the Secretariat and Departmental Councils as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : A statement showing the various facilities and grants made available to the Staff Side of the National Council (JCM) and to the Departmental Councils is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) *Duty Period* :—The time spent in attending the JCM Committees including time of travel, is treated as duty (since 1966).

(b) The Staff Side members of the National Council (JCM) * and Departmental Councils are also allowed atleast 2 days in advance of the meetings of these Councils for discussion among the mselves (since August, 1978). (*Only one day in the case of Regional Councils, since November, 1985).

(c) TA/CA including Conveyance hire, at the scheduled rates for JCM meetings (since the inception of the JCM Scheme in 1966-67).

(d) *CGHS Facilities* : CGHS facilities wherever available are extended to members of the Departmental/ National Council (since December, 1974).

Nursing Home facilities wherever available are given to Staff members of National Council (since January, 1976).

(e) *Telephone facilities* : The members of the National Council are accorded priority for installation of telephone at their residence, on normal rental basis, 'on-out-of-turn basis' without OYT deposit and without reference to Telephone Advisory Committee (since January, 1970).

(f) *Supply of copies of orders/circulars etc.* :—Copies of all orders, circulars etc. of general nature and of interest to employees are circulated among all staff members of the National Council/Departmental Councils.

(g) *Accommodation* : A bungalow at 13—C, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi has been given to the Staff-Side for the Secretariat of the National Council. They were also provided non-recurring grant for setting up of the secretariat and purchase of furniture etc., type-writer, duplicating machine etc.

(h) Recurring annual grant-in-aid is given to the Staff Side secretariat of the National Council to meet part of recurring expenditure. Initially since 1972, this grant was to the extent of Rs. 26,000 which was increased to Rs. 29,000 during 1981-82 and to Rs. 39,000/— since 1990-91. The telephone rental charges for the telephone provided at the Staff Side Secretariat of the National Council as also the 20% water and electricity charges are reimbursable.

(i) *Training facilities* : A decision was taken in November, 1970 the Staff Side members of the National Council may be deputed for management training courses within India. Since, 1976 members of Departmental Councils are also eligible.

(j) *Staff members appearing before the Board of Arbitration* :—The period spent by government servant in appearing as witness before the Board of Arbitration is treated as duty with normal TA/DA. Since 1969, this facility was restricted to two persons which was extended to three in September, 1985.